

B¹
12. (Once Amended) The process according to Claim 10, further comprising the steps of selectively stripping brown leaves from air-cured tobacco leaves during the air-curing, the method further comprising drying primed leaves apart from remaining leaves on the plant.

amended
13. (Once Amended) The process according to Claim 10, wherein brown leaves are primed from air-cured tobacco leaves during the air-curing, the method further comprising drying the primed leaves after removing midveins of the primed leaves.

B²
27 (Once Amended) The method of Claim 26, wherein said curing-accelerating agent comprises a carbonate and/or bicarbonate salt.
